



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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SACHI A. HAMAI
Interim Chief Executive Officer

August 27, 2015

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Second District

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Third District

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To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Interim Chief Executive Officer

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

Executive Summary

This memorandum contains reports on the following:

- **Status of County-Sponsored Legislation**
 - **County-sponsored AB 1119 (Rendon)** - related to county rights to object to and challenge public utility projects proposed by other jurisdictions, passed the Senate Floor on August 27, 2015.
 - **County-co-sponsored SB 478 (Huff)** - related to an online system for receipt of child abuse reports, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 26, 2015.
- **Status of County-Advocacy Legislation**
 - **County-opposed-unless-amended AB 876 (McCarty)** - related to organic waste recycling, passed the Senate Floor on August 24, 2015.
 - **County-supported SB 792 (Mendoza)** - related to immunizations for child care workers, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee on August 26, 2015.
- **Joint Legislative Audit Committee.** A report on State audits of interest to the County approved by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee on August 25, 2015.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

County-sponsored AB 1119 (Rendon), as amended on May 11, 2015, would: 1) require a city proposing the use of a street, alley, avenue or highway within another city or county's jurisdiction to request that the city or county agree on the terms, conditions and location of the use; or 2) if terms and conditions cannot be agreed to, allow the city proposing the use to bring an action in superior court within three months to have the terms and conditions and location determined. This measure passed the Senate Floor by a vote of 32 to 1 on August 27, 2015, and it now proceeds to the Governor.

County-co-sponsored SB 478 (Huff), as amended on August 18, 2015, would: 1) authorize a voluntary pilot program, until January 1, 2021, for up to 10 counties to allow specified mandated reporters to make initial reports of non-emergent child abuse or neglect to the Child Protection Agency through an online report, in lieu of telephonic reports; 2) require the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to administer the pilot program and consult with the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) and welfare agencies of individual counties to determine which counties may be involved in the program; 3) require participating counties to hire an evaluator to monitor the program's implementation and develop outcome measures that determine its effectiveness; 4) require participating counties, on or before January 1, 2020, to report to the Legislature on the pilot program's effectiveness, and 5) authorize CDSS to conclude the pilot program prior to January 1, 2021, on a county-by-county basis, if the evaluation and monitoring indicate the program's implementation compromises the safety of children, among other provisions.

This measure passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee by a vote of 17 to 0 on August 26, 2015, and it now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

Status of County-Advocacy Legislation

County-opposed-unless-amended AB 876 (McCarty), which as amended on June 1, 2015, would require, beginning on August 1, 2017, a county or regional agency to include in its annual report to the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery information related the amount of organic waste generated in the county or region over a 15-year period and to estimate the amount of additional organic waste recycling facility capacity needed to process the waste, among other provisions, passed the Senate Floor by a vote of 26 to 14 on August 24, 2015. This measure now proceeds to the Governor.

County-supported SB 792 (Mendoza), which as amended on August 19, 2015, would prohibit a person who has not been immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles from being employed at a child day care center or a family day care home, passed the Assembly Appropriations Committee by a vote of 16 to 1 on August 26, 2015. This measure now proceeds to the Assembly Floor.

Joint Legislative Audit Committee

On August 25, 2015, the Joint Legislative Audit Committee approved audit requests for the following items of interest to the County:

Foster Children and Psychotropic Medications. The Audit Committee approved, by a vote of 12 to 0, a request by Senator Mike McGuire relating to county child welfare services (CWS), the California Department of Social Services, and the California Department of Health Care Services agencies' oversight and monitoring of children in foster care who have been prescribed psychotropic medications. The audit also requests a review of the availability and adequacy of other supportive services.

The State Auditor will select and review four county CWS agencies, two counties identified as having a high prevalence of the use of psychotropic medications for foster children and two counties with a correspondingly low prevalence, in addition to the above State agencies.

The audit will include, but not be limited to the following elements: 1) identify the respective roles in overseeing the mental health care of foster children of social services, health care services, county CWS and probation agencies, as well as county mental or behavioral health departments that oversee the specialty mental health services that foster children receive; 2) examine the adequacy and accuracy of data tracked by these agencies on whether foster children who are being prescribed psychotropic medications also receive other appropriate non-pharmacological supportive services, such as counseling; and 3) identify whether county CWS agencies are ensuring that necessary health documentation is being transmitted to caregivers, prescribers and other stakeholders when foster children receiving psychotropic medication change placement.

County Pay Practices and Policies - Gender Pay Gap. The Audit Committee approved, by a vote of 10 to 0, a request by Senator Nora Campos for a review of employment activity and gender pay policies in Santa Clara County and three other counties which will be selected by the State Auditor.

The audit will provide independently developed and verified information related to county efforts to mitigate any disparity in wages between male and female civil service employees. The audit is expected to take seven months to complete, and will include, but not be limited to the following elements covering the most recent five-year period: 1) evaluate counties' compliance with laws, policies, procedures and practices related to hiring, promotions, salaries, and gender pay equity; 2) assess whether counties justified any deviation from applicable laws, policies, procedures, and practices; 3) determine which county entity, if any, is responsible for overseeing and enforcing each selected county's adherence to relevant laws, policies, procedures, and practices related to employee hiring, promotions, salaries, and gender pay equity, and assess the adequacy of the oversight and enforcement provided; 4) using a selection of the same or similar county departments within each of the four counties, analyze and compare wage data for at least five job classifications, broken down by gender, ethnicity, education and years of service; 5) to the extent possible, obtain all wage and promotional discrimination complaints filed in the four counties, and the outcomes of the complaints; and 6) determine what efforts each county has taken to mitigate gender-based wage discrimination.

Department of Veterans Affairs - Enterprise Wide Veterans Homes Information System. The Audit Committee approved, by a vote of 12 to 0, a request by Assembly Members Jacqui Irwin and Adrin Nazarian for a review of the Enterprise Wide Veteran Homes Information System (EwVHIS) Project initiated by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) in 2007. Specifically, the audit would review EwVHIS, an electronic health records system CalVet indicates has problems interacting with other systems, which can cause errors in the administration of medication.

The audit is expected to take six months to complete, and will include, but not be limited to the following elements: 1) evaluate CalVet oversight of development and implementation of EwVHIS; 2) determine what affect any lack in EwVHIS functionality has had on quality of care; and 3) the impact of EwVHIS on the cost and efficiency of operating the veterans homes.

Shared Gang Databases. The Audit Committee approved, by a vote of 12 to 0, a request by Assembly Member Shirley Webber to audit the use of California's shared gang databases. The State Auditor will be responsible for surveying applicable State agencies, as well as a select but unidentified number of local law enforcement agencies.

SB 458 (Chapter 797, Statutes of 2013) requires local law enforcement agencies to provide written notice to a minor and his or her parent or guardian prior to submitting a document to the Attorney General's office for the purpose of designating the minor as a

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gang member or gang affiliate in a shared gang database. Minors and their parents or guardians may submit written documentation contesting the designation. The local law enforcement agency must provide its written decision within 60 days.

The audit will include, but not be limited to the following elements: 1) the number of gang database systems in California and the extent of their use; 2) determination on whether State agencies and local law enforcement agencies are properly trained and operating these databases efficiently and according to applicable laws and regulations; 3) what criteria and information is used to designate a person as a gang member for inclusion in a gang database; and 4) local compliance with SB 458.

To complete the audit, the State Auditor is expected to review sample data from the CalGang system, and to survey State agencies that are involved in its management and oversight. In addition, the State Auditor will visit and survey local law enforcement agencies which have yet to be selected.

Information on the scope and objectives of these audits is available at the State Auditor's website at: <http://www.auditor.ca.gov/bsa/recent>.

We will continue to keep you advised.

SAH:JJ:MR
VE:IGEA:ma

c: All Department Heads
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